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NEWS

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Board of Regents Convenes

The Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine held its twenty-fifth meeting at the Library November 14 and 15. Dr. William N. Hubbard, Jr., Chairman and Dean of the University of Michigan Medical School, presided.

Dr. Leo H. Gehrig, Deputy Surgeon General, reported on the reorganization of the Public Health Service, noting that the Library retains its relationship to the Office of the Surgeon General.

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, reviewed aspects of the Library's accomplishments to date, progress in implementation of the NLM 5 year program plan, and the Library's relationships with COSATI and other Federal agencies. Deputy Director Scott Adams discussed the development of policy guidelines for MEDLARS tape dissemination.

Representatives of the Auerbach Corporation, which is conducting a systems study to determine requirements for increasing the effectiveness of MEDLARS (see *NLM News*, Sept 1966), summarized their progress in developing specifications for an expanded system.

Dr. James Lieberman, Director of the Public Health Service Audiovisual Facility, Communicable Disease Center, described the services and programs of the Facility.

On Monday evening, the Regents attended a lecture by Dr. Abner I. Weisman, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, New York Medical College. Dr. T. Dale Stewart, Senior Research Scientist, Office of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institution, was the respondent. The lecture was presented in conjunction with a preview of an NLM exhibit of pre-Columbian medical sculpture, part of Dr. Weisman's collection unearthed from ancient graves in Mexico and Central and South America (see page 2).

The Board of Regents devoted the second day of the meeting to the Library's Extramural Programs. An initial report of a study by the American Association of Medical Colleges of functional requirements for medical library facilities, was presented by one of the principal investigators, Dr. Merlin K. DuVal, University of Arizona. After a report by Dr. Marjorie P. Wilson, Associate Director for Extramural Programs, the Regents reconvened as the National Medical Libraries Assistance Board to consider pending applications for support under the Medical Library Assistance Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-291).

Pre-Columbian Medical Exhibit Opens

Dr. Weisman

"Medical archeology can teach the younger generation of today's doctors a good deal," Abner I. Weisman, M.D., told the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine and their guests, November 14.

Dr. Weisman, Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the New York Medical College, spoke on "Medical Archeology: A New Weapon in the Armamentarium of the Physician." His lecture highlighted an evening preview of the Library's new exhibition, the Weisman Collection of Pre-Columbian Medical Sculpture. The exhibit features 131 pieces of clay sculpture and pottery collected by Dr. Weisman during the past twenty years.

An illustrated catalog of the exhibit is available on request from the Office of the Assistant to the Director, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014.

NLM Director Represents HEW on COSATI

Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare Gardner has appointed NLM Director Martin M. Cummings as the Department's representative on the Committee on Scientific and Technical Information (COSATI) of the Federal Council for Science and Technology. The Council operates under the policy guidance of the Office of Science and Technology in the Executive Office of the President. COSATI develops Government-wide standards for the dissemination of scientific and technical information within the Federal structure. Dr. F. Ellis Kelsey was to have served as Dr. Cummings' alternate.

Library Automation Needs, Products, Discussed

Mr. Riley

A group of librarians, computer systems specialists, and others from institutions around the Nation met at the Library on November 3 and 4 with NLM staff members in an informal workshop centered on automation in medical libraries.

The principal goal of the workshop was to elicit ideas on what new or improved products and services might be asked of NLM by automated and non-automated libraries, and descriptions of automation programs now in operation or being planned at other libraries.

Mr. James P. Riley, Chief, Technical Services Division, who organized the workshop, said that it yielded a valuable store of ideas and opinions from a variety of individuals and institutions. Mr. Riley plans to meet with other representatives of the medical library community, so that their needs and ideas may be incorporated in NLM planning.

Regional Medical Librarians Meet

On October 21 and 22, nearly 150 representatives from medical libraries in the District of Columbia and nine Eastern states assembled in Baltimore for the 13th annual meeting of the Washington, D.C. Area Regional Group of the Medical Library Association. The meeting was hosted by the Welch Medical Library of Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Carl D. Douglass, Chief of NLM's Resources and Facilities Division, Extramural Programs, delivered the keynote address: "The Regional Medical Library Program of the National Library of Medicine."

Mr. Alfred N. Brandon, Welch Medical Library Director, moderated a panel discussion on "Philosophy and Plans for Regional Medical Libraries."

NLM Director to Address CIBA Foundation

Dr. Martin M. Cummings, NLM Director, will participate in the International Symposium on Communications and Science: Documentation and Automation, November 21-24, at the CIBA Foundation, London, England. In concluding his talk on the biomedical communications problem, Dr. Cummings said: "The technology exists to improve significantly the biomedical communication problem. Where we are lacking is in performance. I have little doubt that newly available modalities of information transfer will markedly alter the social and intellectual patterns of behavior of our scientific community. In the field of medicine, I believe libraries will serve as the principal action point for such improvements. This prediction is offered not because libraries themselves are aggressively planning for such developments, but rather because the scientific and technical community which uses the literature is directing this course of action through its influence on national policy formulation."

F. Ellis Kelsey, Ph.D., 54, Special Assistant to the Surgeon General for Science Information, died of a heart attack on November 15 in Bethesda.

An advocate of drug information clearinghouses, Dr. Kelsey helped the Library in promoting improved communications among scientists and physicians. He contended that the provision of immediate information would be an invaluable aid in the control and use of potentially dangerous drugs. He served in numerous academic posts before joining the Public Health Service in 1960 when he was appointed to the Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Kelsey was the husband of Dr. Frances O. Kelsey, winner of the Distinguished Service Medal for her work on thalidomide. Besides his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Susan, 19, and Christine, 17.

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Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Robert M. Wilson Editor (Phone: 301-49-61030)
Ann Lindsay Assistant Editor
Daniel Carangi Graphics

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New NLM Literature Searches

L.S. No.	Title
17-66	Sarcoidosis and tuberculosis. Mid 1963 - Mid 1966. (176 Cit.)
18-66	Sarcoidosis and infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis. Mid 1963 - Mid 1966. (95 Cit.)
19-66	Sarcoidosis and immunology. Mid 1963 - Mid 1966. (135 Cit.)

Copies available on request from Assistant to the Director.

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